

AN ACT

relating to treatment and care provided by licensed medical professionals to animals in certain facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 801.004, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 801.004. APPLICATION OF CHAPTER. This chapter does not apply to:

(1) the treatment or care of an animal in any manner by the owner of the animal, an employee of the owner, or a designated caretaker of the animal, unless the ownership, employment, or designation is established with the intent to violate this chapter;

(2) a person who performs an act prescribed by the board as an accepted livestock management practice, including:

(A) castrating a male animal raised for human consumption;

(B) docking or earmarking an animal raised for human consumption;

(C) dehorning cattle;

(D) aiding in the nonsurgical birth process of a large animal, as defined by board rule;

(E) treating an animal for disease prevention with a nonprescription medicine or vaccine;

(F) branding or identifying an animal in any

1 manner;

2 (G) artificially inseminating an animal,
3 including training, inseminating, and compensating for services
4 related to artificial insemination; and

5 (H) shoeing a horse;

6 (3) the performance of a cosmetic or production
7 technique to reduce injury in poultry intended for human
8 consumption;

9 (4) the performance of a duty by a veterinarian's
10 employee if:

11 (A) the duty involves food production animals;

12 (B) the duty does not involve diagnosis,
13 prescription, or surgery;

14 (C) the employee is under the direction and
15 general supervision of the veterinarian; and

16 (D) the veterinarian is responsible for the
17 employee's performance;

18 (5) the performance of an act by a person who is a
19 full-time student of an accredited college of veterinary medicine
20 if the act is performed under the direct supervision of a
21 veterinarian;

22 (6) an animal shelter employee who performs euthanasia
23 in the course and scope of the person's employment if the person has
24 successfully completed training in accordance with Chapter 829,
25 Health and Safety Code;

26 (7) a person who is engaged in a recognized
27 state-federal cooperative disease eradication or control program

1 or an external parasite control program while the person is
2 performing official duties required by the program;

3 (8) a person who, without expectation of compensation,
4 provides emergency care in an emergency or disaster; ~~or~~

5 (9) a consultation given to a veterinarian in this
6 state by a person who:

7 (A) resides in another state; and

8 (B) is lawfully qualified to practice veterinary
9 medicine under the laws of that state; or

10 (10) a licensed health care professional who, without
11 expectation of compensation and under the direct supervision of a
12 veterinarian on staff, provides treatment or care to an animal
13 owned by or in the possession, control, or custody of an entity
14 accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums or one of the
15 following organizations that has a veterinarian on staff:

16 (A) the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries;

17 or

18 (B) the Zoological Association of America.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 721 passed the Senate on March 20, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 25, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 721 passed the House, with amendment, on May 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor